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Identical letters dated 16 May 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and further to our previous letters, I should like to convey to you the following information:

On 15 May 2017, the forces of the illegitimate international coalition led by the United States of America killed more than 26 persons in the village of Ukayrishah, Raqqah governorate. That number is expected to rise because of the severity of the victims' injuries sustained and the great destruction caused to villagers' homes. That same coalition also attacked yesterday civilians in the city of Albu Kamal, killing 31 persons, the majority of whom were children and women, and injured a number of others, some of whom are now in critical condition. Residential buildings collapsed on their occupants as a result of the substantial damage caused by the attack, and a number of persons are still missing, likely trapped under the rubble. Last week, the forces of the illegitimate international coalition issued an official statement in which they admitted that they have accidentally, as they claim, killed hundreds of innocent Syrian civilians in their operations in Syria.

The admission by the coalition that it has massacred thousands of innocent Syrian children and women proves beyond a doubt that its operations are having a devastating effect on the lives of Syrians. The coalition continues to engage in merciless orgies of death, killing women as they pick cotton, as well as children, the elderly and other innocents in their homes, thereby demonstrating that coalition aircraft are not committing these crimes by mistake, but rather in accordance with a policy that cannot be justified or accepted for any reason or under any pretext.

The Syrian Arab Republic condemns in the strongest terms possible the unlawful operations of the coalition in Syrian airspace, as well as any similar operations that are carried out without the consent of and prior coordination with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic. The Government considers such operations to be a flagrant act of aggression against the Syrian people and a blatant violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria and an attack against its people.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has transmitted a great deal of information regarding the repeated acts of aggression that have been committed by coalition forces, acts that are condemned under international law and the Charter of the United Nations because they do not specifically target terrorists and their

supporters, and have not produced any result whatsoever other than to enable terrorists to commit crimes against Syria. In keeping with its responsibility to protect its people and borders, Syria reiterates that the true enemy of the Syrian people are such terrorist organizations as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and the Nusrah Front, which coalition forces and other actors, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Britain, supply with arms and funds for the sole purpose of destroying Syria, killing its people and prolonging the war, in furtherance of what is now a well-known policy that is coordinated at the highest decision-making levels in the above-mentioned countries and others.

Syria once again calls on the Security Council to halt the aggression by the illegitimate international coalition led by the United States of America against the Syrian people and not to ignore the acts of aggression being committed by that coalition, the operations of which are not mandated by a Security Council resolution and blatantly violate the Charter. What the world needs today is greater respect for international law and international humanitarian law, not operations carried out by an illegitimate coalition, regardless of whether the actors are permanent or non-permanent members of the Council.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i